

Top Secret



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

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19 October 1972



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Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A023000060002-8

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CHILE: Situation remains tense. (Page 5)

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C CHILE: The situation remains tense and inconclusive. The armed forces are continuing to act in strict accordance with the responsibilities given them by the government.

On 18 October Allende made minor concessions that averted a bus drivers' strike. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Opposition leaders, however, are not yet ready to run the political risk of appearing to weaken their firm support of the protest movement.

There has been no serious violence yet, despite numerous sabotage attempts--probably by rightist extremists. Leftist extremists are spoiling for a fight, but have thus far been reined in by Allende and his more moderate advisers. The President is determined not to let the left provoke the armed forces but to make certain that the opposition gets all the blame for disturbances and economic dislocations.

Strike leaders seem uncertain what to do next. They reportedly still hope that army chief General Prats will finally be driven by events to move against the government. [REDACTED]

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